

Associate Newsletter
June 2006
Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

*Celebrating the 150th Anniversary
of the death of St Emilie
24th August 2006*

*"Go and with what you have
and will receive
Do all the good you can,"*



Taken From the Obituary of Mother Emilie de Vialar

"The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition have just suffered a great loss in the death of Madame Emilie de Vialar, the Foundress and Superior General of their Congregation.

Emilie de Vialar was born into a noble family, but even when quite young she had learnt how to give up the glamour and the pleasures of the world so as to devote herself actively to the service of the poor. At the age of sixteen she began, by her skillfulness and ingenuity, the practice of such good works as were to be and have been the life-long object of her constant care and solicitude.

For almost twenty-four years Mother Emilie de Vialar remained at the head of her Congregation. Her entire family inheritance had been given to the development of her apostolic work. She died as she had lived in the practice of charity. A heroic act of charity, carried out when she was young, was the root cause of her death. The Servant of God did not succumb to it until she had given long years of service. She passed from this world to the next at the age of fifty-eight years and eleven months, almost without an agony, in the calm of a good conscience, and with an assured hope for the happy future of her humble and beloved Congregation." *Father J.C. Dassy O.M.I. 1856*



Our Associates Write

Firstly, may I say how much I enjoy receiving and reading the Associate Newsletter. Thanking you all and have a happy and Holy Easter. God Bless.

Gloria Davis

Thank you once again for your newsletter. It's a great way of keeping in touch. Thank you too, for your expression of sympathy at the passing of my husband, Graham. The attendance at his funeral of the Sisters and so many old school friends made me realize what a strong bond we will always have with St Joseph's. My love to you all.

Sincerely

Margaret Reeves (Hoare)

We wish you all a very Happy Easter. Thank you for the newsletter. May God bless you all and grant you health and happiness always.

Love.

Ivana and John O'Dee

Thank you to all the Sisters for always caring for me. Thank you for your prayers. You are always in mine. Love to all.

Fay Golding (Anderson)

Thank you for the newsletter once again. Please remember us in your prayer. All my love and prayers to you.

Yvonne Tucker (Taylor) and Family



There is a season for everything

a time for giving birth
 a time for dying
 a time for tears
 a time for laughter
 a time for mourning
 a time for dancing

(Ecclesiastes) : 1,2,4)

A
 Time
 for
 giving
 Thanks



The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition would like to take this time to thank all our Associates for their support and help – financial and other – for the Newsletters and other projects we have in hand. We would like to thank you especially for the many donations received to help the work of the Sisters in Burma as shown in the last newsletter. There has been a wonderful response from many quarters and we are extremely grateful for all your assistance and support in these projects.



Albany Associate Meeting

The next gathering of Albany Associates will be held

on **23rd July** at **19 Premier Circle** commencing

with **lunch at 12.30 p.m.** followed by the meeting.

RSVP - 19 July

19 Premier Circle

Telephone (08) 9841 1176

Associate Meeting – Victoria

The next gathering for Victorian Associates will be

15th October - details later

A Reflection

When you search for me, you will find me;
 when you search wholeheartedly for me,
 I shall let you find me. *Jeremiah 29:13*

A Litany of Seeking and Finding

Deep within our being where truth and peace yearn to reign over chaos and confusion..... We seek you Lord.

In the midst of our daily activities and the man thing that haunts our calendars..... We seek you Lord.

Among the people who come into our lives - our loved ones, our friends, our colleagues and companions, even our enemies... We seek you Lord.

As we move into the heart of prayer and hear the call to be more in union with you..... We seek you Lord

When we feel empty, distraught, frustrated, and lost; when we wonder in what direction to go... We seek you Lord.



CHALLENGES AND ADVENTURE A NEW BEGINNING

It is now some years since the Sisters left the school situation and taken on new ministries. This year we bring you some stories of Sisters who are in the later stages of life and still making a tremendous contribution. Sister Irene and Sister Monica will tell us of their "lives after school"

In 1985 after 45 years teaching in Primary and Secondary schools conducted by our Sisters, I was transferred to St Emilie's Kalamunda where I spent twelve months completing a 32 week Pastoral Care Programme at the Maranatha Institute Leederville. This course comprised 3 units : Pastoral Care 3 units; Faith Education, and units in Scripture, Liturgy, Church History, Christology and Ministerial Spirituality, equipping me for my future mission as a Pastoral Worker. Another valuable experience for me was the opportunity to complete a unit in Clinical Pastoral Education where I had the good fortune to have as my supervisor Bev, a paraplegic, who was wholly dedicated in sharing and encouraging me to persevere and qualify in this area.

From 1986 - 1993: as the parish of Albany had requested a Sister as Pastoral Worker, I was transferred to Albany where I became the coordinator of the Infant Baptism Programme and Adult Faith Programme. At this time, parish visitation was a priority and supporting the Priests in the Parish as the need arose.

Como called in 1993, where once again I was given the opportunity of involvement, particularly with the sick and elderly. This was a rewarding apostolate for me as I felt I gained more than I was able to give to these people who so generously accepted their limitations and were willing to share ups and downs of their life experiences and so grateful for what the Blessed Sacrament Fathers offered them both spiritually and temporally.



At this time I was invited by the Provincial to be responsible for the continued promotion of the Associate Programme which I did so until I volunteered to accompany Sister Anastasia to Thailand in 1999. In 1998 to deepen my love and knowledge of St Emilie's life, I was given the opportunity to visit our Mother House in Paris, Gaillac, Toulouse - scenes of St Emilie's mission. Lourdes and Rome were also included in our itinerary for all of which I am deeply grateful.

1999-2000. Now followed an "Adventure of a lifetime," to quote my nephew when he heard the news of my accompanying Sister Anastasia as a volunteer to teach English to our Sisters and the students in our Yavooet (Little Angel) school in Ubon north eastern Thailand. This proved a big challenge to them and us, but together with the Lord guiding us we succeeded in giving them the skills to speak and write what was to them a mysterious language - English. It was most rewarding to hear the Education Department Advisors, the Sisters, Parents, Students all praising us for our generosity in offering our time and energy to promote their ambition to master English and also to witness to the love of God for them.

In 2001 I was back in Samson and was asked to support the two Burmese Sisters who were to join our Community. During this time I was available to visit Como two days per week. Since then I have been only minimally involved in visitation in Como, Hilton Parish and to some of our Associates.

For my personal development during these years I was privileged to attend the Pacific Mission Institute Turramurra to complete a Mission Studies and Formation Programme which involved a series of lectures and seminars with personal research in Scripture, Theology, Spirituality, Culture Issues of Justice, Feminism and Multiculturalism. In 2001 I also completed a Serenity Programme at Baulkham Hills which offered a wholistic approach to person renewal.

Together with the above, I have had the advantage of Annual Retreats, visiting lecturers, spiritual seminars and relevant programmes at Maranatha.

My life since 1985 shows that "Retiring" is not a word in a Sister's vocabulary, and I thank and praise God for choosing me as a Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition.

Sister Irene Fitzgerald.

CHALLENGES AND ADVENTURE

A NEW BEGINNING (Continued)

After I retired from teaching and came to live in Willetton, I completed the Pastoral Workers' Course at Maranatha Institute in Leederville in preparation for becoming a Parish Pastoral Worker



In 1990 the Parish Priest asked me to join the Core group of the R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in which capacity I've been working ever since. In that time, 162 adults, from various religious backgrounds, have completed the process to become full members of our Catholic Community; many have become very involved in Church activities.

As one of a large number of Special Ministers of the Eucharist in the parish, a privilege I enjoy is to take Holy Communion to the sick, or elderly in their homes or in local retirement villages. Some deep, mutual and long lasting friendships have resulted from this ministry. I also visit the sick in their homes and Murdoch Hospice. Also those who have been bereaved.

For some years I've been working with our local Vincent de Paul Society - a very committed group of caring men and women, who, together with the John Paul Care Group and the team of ladies in the craft group, provide much needed material assistance to the deprived, to refugees who are accommodated in two homes (run by the parish) and any others who request help in time of need.

An off-shoot of the John Paul group is the Bereavement group who are ready to help and listen, in a non-threatening environment, any who are bereaved. Evening meetings to which those who have suffered a loss, (death of a dear one, a job, or whatever) are invited to come and speak of their experience. A leader is present to offer sympathy and help if needed.

Two mornings a week I spend in the parish office where I have access to past Sunday newsletters from which I write a chronicle of the parish. Each year I compile the parish statistics - Baptism, Confirmations, First Communions and marriages, to be sent to the cathedral - quite a task when an average of about 100 of the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated annually - only a few marriages.

Another facet of my life is being part of the R.C.L.(Religious Celebrating Life) which caters for Senior Religious throughout the Archdiocese by meetings, entertainment, and Spiritual days, all of which give an added value to our lives as "Seniors". There are many Sisters from other Congregations who join with us and we are very enriched with our interaction in each group.

(Sister Monica Kirby)

Change of Date: *In the last newsletter it was stated that the next meeting at Willetton would be on 20th August. This date and meeting have been changed and will now take the form as follows:*

INVITATION

Our Associates are invited to attend a special Mass to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of *St Emilie de Vialar* to coincide with the celebrations being held in Gaillac (France) at that time. This will be held on **27th August** in the Church of **Saints John and Paul at Willetton**. **The Mass will commence at 12.30pm and will be followed by a light luncheon in the Parish Centre afterwards.**

R.S.V.P Telephone (08) 9310 4072 : 172 Pinetree Gully Road WILLETTON

TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST :



Kiryat Yearim - Holy Place

In a very short time Sister Alma Carey, - at present living in Munster - will leave Australia to spend some time with our Sisters in Israel at Kiryat Yearim helping them at the Prayer and Retreat Centre.

We wish Sister Alma a very fruitful time in Kiryat Yearim and pray that it will not be too long before we are welcoming her back home!

ABOUT KIRYAT YEARIM

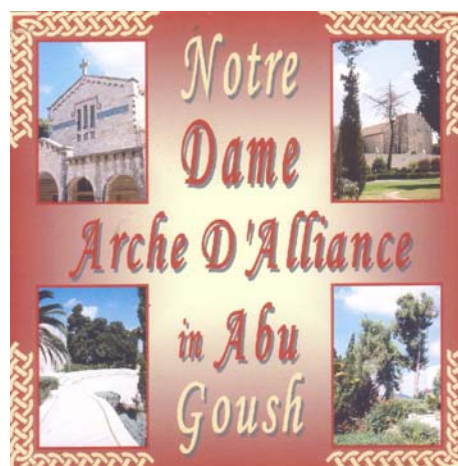
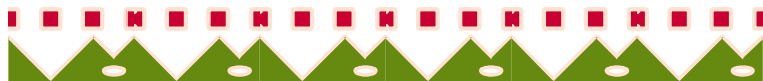


Kiryat Yearim is a beautiful hilltop overlooking the Arab-Jewish village of Abu Ghosh in Israel, and consists of large grounds, convent, guest house and Church. This Church, Our Lady, Ark of the Covenant, is built on the site where the Ark of the Covenant dwelt for twenty years before being taken to Jerusalem by King David (1 Sam.6:20)

The acoustics in the Church are so wonderful that the Jewish people run Musical Festivals in the Church and its grounds.

The Sisters run a retreat and conference centre in Kiryat and people come from all parts of the world to stay there. The centre can accommodate up to 50 people. It is of significance to pilgrims, tours and bus trips. People also go to Kiryat to rest, looking to deepen their relationship with God.

One of the duties for Sister Alma will be to show people around the Centre.



Sister Noelline writes:

GAILLAC ; LOURDES ; ROME

Last April, Sister Mary Steele and I were privileged to visit the home and first missions of St Emilie de Vialar. We left Australia on the 8th April, 2006, landing in Toulouse to travel via train to Gaillac, St Emilie's birthplace.

For three days, I walked in the footsteps of St Emilie; staying in her first house, praying in her bedroom and visiting the church of the vision. This was an amazing spiritual experience.

To be in Lourdes in Holy Week was another highlight - being one of thousands praying with such devotion at the Grotto was most touching. My visit to Rome was also deeply moving. It was very exciting to meet up with so many of our Sisters (49) from all parts of the world! The five days' talk by Father Prankash animated us to take seriously the them: "Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation."



Sister Agnes Cavasino inspired me with her explanation of St Emilie's writings and her spirit. During these three days, I personally felt that St Emilie was talking to me and asking me to make real in my life the emphasis on human rights found in her writings.

Our final two days were spent visiting places of interest, especially the Vatican, where we had an audience with Pope Benedict. I remembered also the influence of St Ignatius' Spirituality had on our Sisters as we prayed and attended Mass in "Dei Gesu"

I am extremely grateful for the wonderful opportunity given me, and returned to Australia to share my happiness at having been privileged to physically, as well as spiritually, walk in the footsteps of St Emilie.

Sister Noelline Haung

GAILLAC - LOURDES - ROME



Sister Mary and Sister Noelline tell of their recent pilgrimage to Gaillac, Lourdes and Rome as part of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the death of St Emilie.

It was a great privilege to go to Gaillac in France and stay in the original foundation house where St Emilie de Vialar first started the Congregation. To pray in St Peter's Church in Gaillac was a wonderful experience. This was the church where St Emilie had the vision of the five wounds of Jesus lying on the altar. There is also a lovely Shrine of St Emilie in this very old Church. We were privileged to have a photo taken on the terrace in her father's house where St Emilie served the poor. We also visited St John's Church where St Emilie prayed to St Francis Xavier about her desire to work on the Foreign Missions.

After Gaillac we visited Lourdes. It was a great sight to look out the train window and see the snow on the Pyrenees Mountains. We attended the Easter ceremonies here in the underground Basilica of St Pius the 10th Church. I prayed for all in Australia at Our Lady's Grotto. Being in Lourdes was a wonderful experience.

We arrived in Rome on Easter Monday and were greeted by the Sisters. We prepared ourselves for the sessions where there were representatives of Sisters of St Joseph from fourteen countries. Each country was required to present a power point on the works of the sisters in their own country.

The next three days an Italian Franciscan priest outlined a program to give us a broader knowledge of the world where human rights are ignored, where the poor are becoming increasingly numerous and exploited, where the wealth of the world is unfairly distributed, where creation and the environment are not respected. These days were followed by talks given by various Sisters of the Congregation. Our audience to see the Holy Father was a wonderful outing. It is great to see the love and respect the people have for the Pope.



At the conclusion of these wonderful days I was privileged to be able to visit my cousin in Scotland – The Outer Hebrides. This was a gift to me from her and I am so grateful for the wonderful time spent with her family there. This year with its visit to Gaillac, Lourdes, Rome and Scotland have left me with many happy memories and gratitude to all for such an opportunity

Thank You

Sister Mary Steele



OUR DECEASED SISTERS, ASSOCIATES RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord.

ASSOCIATES:

Eileen Tucker	Mother of Patricia: Sister of Joyce Power
Phil Lorenz (Victoria)	Husband of Sheila
Maria Canale (Northam)	

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Colin Reed	Brother-in-law of Sr Kathleen Downes
Brian McKenzie	Brother of Sister Aloysius and Ursula Castles Cousin of Sister Monica
Rose Thomas	Cousin of Sister Helen
Trevor Pinkard	Nephew-in-law of Sister Anastasia
Nuala Clune	Sister of Sister Clare Maunsell (deceased)
Derrick Flynn	Cousin of Sister Liguori
Phillip (In Croatia)	Brother-in-law of Sister Canisius
Basil Travia	Nephew of Maria Basile: Cousin of Gloria and Sister Angela

*Praise to you O God,
for your gentleness and strength.
Praise to you for the words and the songs,
the rhythm and the dance
the resting and the rising
as we make our way to you.*



We pray for all our sick Sisters, Associates, relatives and friends, and for all who have asked our prayers at this time.



